REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-17 are pending in the application.

In a conversation with Examiner Flynn on January 20, 2004, the rejection of the claims was clarified. According to that clarification, claims 1-7, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being anticipated by Feinleib (US Patent No. 6,272,532), and in further view of Durlester, et al. ("If OS/2 had a Robust Boot Disk, we could stop Doing the Hokeypokey").

As amended, claim 1 requires that the configuration instructions be inside the electronic mail message and be extracted from the same. This is supported in Applicant's specification on page 2, the last two paragraphs, and the first paragraph on page 3, specifically. As indicated in there, the parser would extract any configuration instructions from the configuration e-mails. Therefore, the instructions are contained within the e-mail messages, not as attachments. If the instructions were sent in the form of an instructional text file, such as *.INI file, there would be no need to parse or extract the commands from the message. It is therefore submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and should be ruled allowable for that reason and for their own merits. The combination of references does not show, teach nor suggest that the e-mail message is received at the mail server and then the configuration instructions are parsed as in claim 2 or that the mail server is either an IMAP or an SMTP server as in claim 3.

With regard to claim 4, the combination of references does not teach running a mail daemon from the device, where the daemon is responsible for monitoring electronic mail for the device such that an electronic mail message containing instructions for the device is received, and the instructions are extracted and parsed from the message.

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With regard to claim 5, the combination of references does not teach that the appliance is connected to the network to receive the e-mail message and then extract and parse the instructions.

The combination of references does not teach a mail client on the device receiving the mail message in which there are instructions to be extracted and parsed as in claim 6, or that the mail client communicates with a server as in claim 7.

It is therefore submitted that claims 2-7 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and request allowance of these claims.

Claim 14 should be ruled allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 15 should be ruled allowable for being dependent upon an allowable base claim and for its own merits.
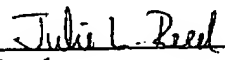
Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 14 and should be ruled allowable for that reason and for their own merits. While the use of Real Audio Player and WebCam may be commonly used for network applications, there is no indication that the use of a web camera not connected to a PC, as WebCam requires, or an 'Internet radio player' as a piece of hardware, not as an application running on a PC is envisioned by the combination of references.

In addition, the combination of references does not disclose these appliances having the capability of extracting and parsing configuration instructions from an e-mail message. It is therefore submitted that claims 16 and 17 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and request allowance of these claims.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Allowance of all claims is requested. A clarification of the rejection would be much appreciated by the Applicant, as Applicant is not certain of the responsiveness of this paper, given the confusion raised by the rejections. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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